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NL INDUSTRIES/TARACORP SUPERFUND SITE GROUP
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January 3, 2005

First Class Mail

Mr. Brad Bradley
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

RE: NL Industries/Taracorp Superfund Site; Granite City, Illinois
Consent Decree
Progress Report 68 (December 2004)

Dear Mr. Bradley:

As required by the Consent Decree for the NL Industries/Taracorp Superfund Site (the "site"), two copies of this letter are submitted on behalf of the NL Industries/Taracorp Superfund Site Group ("Group") to provide the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") with a progress report for operation and maintenance activities that were performed during December 2004.

1. Actions Taken During Previous Month to Comply with the Consent Decree:

- On December 3, 2004, the Group's project coordinator issued a monthly progress report to EPA.
- On December 22, 2004, the Group's contractor, ENTACT, conducted an operation and maintenance inspection at the site on behalf of the Group.
- On December 29, 2004, the Group's project coordinator provided a letter to EPA which included a copy of ENTACT's operation and maintenance log sheet, documenting the results of ENTACT's December 22, 2004 inspection at the site. As indicated on the inspection report, ENTACT advised the Group that grass has germinated and is growing in the areas on the cap of the Taracorp pile that were filled, seeded, and covered with erosion blanket in September 2004.



- During December 2004, the Group initiated efforts to prepare a declaration of restrictive covenants for the former BV&G Trucking property at the site.
- During December 2004, the Madison County Community Development Agency continued to prepare for the public kick-off event related to the implementation of the Supplemental Environmental Project ("SEP").

2. **Summary of Data and/or Results of Sampling and Tests Received:**

- Not applicable for this reporting period.

3. **Work Plans, Plans, and Other Deliverables Completed and Submitted to EPA During the Previous Month:**

- Not applicable for this reporting period.

4. **Actions, Data Collection, and Implementation of Work Plans and Other Information Related to the Progress of Construction which are Scheduled to be Performed During the Next Six-Week Period:**

- As noted above, the Madison County Community Development Agency will continue to prepare for a public kick-off event for the SEP. The Group and/or the Madison County Community Development Agency will notify EPA as soon as arrangements for the public kick-off event have been finalized.
- The Group will continue efforts related to the implementation of institutional controls for the Taracorp pile properties at the site. At the present time, the Group anticipates that a draft declaration of restrictive covenants for the former BV&G Trucking property will be completed in January 2005. Upon completion, the draft document will be forwarded to EPA for review and comments.

5. **Problems Encountered, Anticipated Problems, Actual or Anticipated Delays, and Efforts Developed or Implemented to Mitigate Delays:**

- Not applicable for this reporting period.

6. **Modifications to Work Plans or Schedules Proposed to EPA or Approved by EPA:**

- Not applicable for this reporting period.

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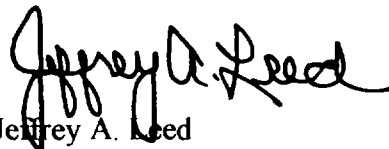
7. **Community Relations Activities During Previous Month or to be Undertaken During Next Six-Week Period:**

- As noted above, the Group anticipates that the Madison County Community Development Agency will continue to plan for the public kick-off event for the SEP.

Should you or your staff have questions or comments regarding this progress report, please contact this office at (610) 670-7310.

Very truly yours,

LEED ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.



Jeffrey A. Leed
Project Coordinator

cc: Ms. Sandra Bron - Illinois EPA (by first class mail)
Mr. Rich Wood - ENTACT, Inc. (by first class mail)
Technical Committee, NL Industries/Taracorp Superfund Site Group
(by first class mail)